

REMARKS

Claims 13, 15, 17 and 19 have been amended. Additions are denoted by underlining, deletions are denoted by strikeouts. Claim 14 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 13 and 15 to 26 are now pending in the present application.

Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Objections

Claim 19 was objected to for extra commas. Applicants thank the Examiner for noticing the typographical error. Applicants have amended claim 19 above. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification and originally filed PCT claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 19.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) – Ebert Reference

Claims 13, 18, 20, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,278,991 to Ebert.

Amended claim 13 is directed to a method for graphically representing a value of a data type of a formally defined data structure existing as a value tree, including: *assigning a window as a graphical user interface to the data structure; inserting hierarchically at least one generic, scalable, graphical user-interface component in the window, the value tree of the data structure being mapped onto the at least one user-interface component; providing that the at least one graphical user interface component is in a recognizable relation to at least one node of the value tree; providing at least one of a graphical representation and a textual representation of the value is selectable for each subtree of the value tree; and for a processing of the value tree, deriving for each node a value list of all of values compatible with respect to assignment with the data types, and selecting one of the value from the value list for each value assignment.*

The Ebert reference does not appear to identically describe each and every feature (as is required for anticipation) of claim 13. Instead, the Ebert reference appears to concern a label on each lens which provides information on the data originally displayed in the lens – and a user may choose to view the originally displayed contents of any lens on the screen. Abstract, lines 8-11. The Ebert reference further refers to a user modifying a personal hierarchical data structure comprising links to sets of data in the first hierarchical structure and in doing so, a user creates an entirely new hierarchical structure. Abstract, lines 11-17. However, the Ebert reference does not appear to identically describe at least the features of

for processing of the value tree, deriving for each node a value list of all of values compatible with respect to assignment with the data types, and selecting one of the value from the value list for each value assignment, as in claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 as amended is allowable. The remaining claims 18 and 20 to 22 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 13. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the Ebert reference is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Ebert Reference, Crim Reference

Claims 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,278,991 to Ebert in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,866 to Crim (“Crim reference”).

Claim 14 has been canceled. Claims 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26 depend from claim 13. As discussed above, claim 13 and thus any of its dependent claims are believed allowable over the Ebert reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Ebert reference taken in combination with the Crim reference (and it is respectfully submitted that they are not properly combinable) does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26. The Crim reference does not appear to cure the deficiencies of the Ebert reference. The Crim reference appears to concern a process and apparatus for generating and editing value lists. Col. 2, lines 53-55. The Crim reference refers to a user creating a value list having values selected from other fields, the created value list being given an identifying name so that it may be shared by other fields in a current database or another database. Col. 2, lines 60-67.

The Ebert and Crim references, taken together, do not teach or suggest each and every claim feature of any of claims 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26. That is, the Ebert and Crim references do not teach each and every claim feature of claim 13 including the feature of: for a processing of the value tree, *deriving for each node a value list of all of values compatible with respect to assignment with the data types, and selecting one of the value from the value list for each value assignment*. Even if one of ordinary skill in the art combined the two references, one would not necessarily obtain the invention of claim 13 in the present application. That is, while the Ebert reference appears to concern itself with lenses in hierarchical situations, and the Crim reference appears to concern itself with generating and editing value lists, it does not necessarily follow that one of ordinary skill in the art would consider deriving for each node a value list of all values compatible with respect to assignment with the data types, and selecting one of the values from the values list for each value assignment, as in amended claim 13. The Federal Circuit in the case of In re Kotzab

has made plain that even if a claim concerns a “technologically simple concept” — which is not even the case here -- there still must be some finding as to the “specific understanding or principle within the knowledge of a skilled artisan” that would motivate a person having no knowledge of the claimed subject matter to “make the combination in the manner claimed”, stating that:

In this case, the Examiner and the Board fell into the hindsight trap. The idea of a single sensor controlling multiple valves, as opposed to multiple sensors controlling multiple valves, is a technologically simple concept. With this simple concept in mind, the Patent and Trademark Office found prior art statements that in the abstract appeared to suggest the claimed limitation. But, there was no finding as to the specific understanding or principle within the knowledge of a skilled artisan that would have motivated one with no knowledge of Kotzab's invention to make the combination in the manner claimed. In light of our holding of the absence of a motivation to combine the teachings in Evans, we conclude that the Board did not make out a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting [the] claims . . . under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Evans.

(See In re Kotzab, 55 U.S.P.Q.2d 1313, 1318 (Federal Circuit 2000) (citations omitted, italics in original, emphasis added)). To reject a claim as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the prior art must disclose or suggest each claim element and it must also provide a motivation or suggestion for combining the elements in the manner contemplated by the claim. (See Northern Telecom, Inc. v. Datapoint Corp., 908 F.2d 931, 934 (Fed. Cir. 1990), cert. denied, 111 S. Ct. 296 (1990); In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 834 (Fed. Cir. 1990)).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Ebert and Crim references do not render obvious above-amended claim 13 or its dependent claims 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the Ebert and Crim references do not render obvious the dependent claims 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26 for their additionally cited features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 26 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Ebert reference in view of the Crim reference is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Ebert Reference, Gardner Reference

Claims 19 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by the Ebert Reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,701,352 to Gardner (“Gardner reference”).

Claims 19 and 25 depend from claim 13. As discussed above, claim 13, as amended, is believed allowable over the Ebert reference.

The Gardner reference does not appear to cure the deficiencies of the Ebert reference. The Gardner reference appears to concern automatically importing, according to predefined selection criteria, information stored at a resource remotely located across a network. The Gardner reference, even when taken in combination with the Ebert reference, does not teach or suggest at least the feature of for a processing of the value tree, deriving for each node a value list of all of values compatible with respect to assignment with the data types, and selecting one of the value from the value list for each value assignment as in amended claim 13, and thus, as in dependent claims 19 and 25.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19 and 25 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Ebert reference in view of the Gardner reference is respectfully requested.

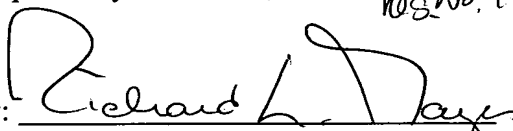
In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 13 and 15 to 26 of the above-identified application are allowable for the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the objections/rejections of claims 13 and 15 to 26 have been obviated or overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims 13 and 15 to 26, as presented above, are now allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections/rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

If it would further allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the contact information given below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490)

Dated: January 18, 2005

CUSTOMER NO. 26646

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200